HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO EXAMINE ALL POSSIBILITIES TO ENABLE STUDENT ATHLETIC TEAMS TO RUN AND TRAIN OFF CAMPUS.

WHEREAS, the Department of Education enacted guidelines prohibiting athletic teams from conducting practices and activities that are not on Department of Education property without following certain protocols and obtaining proper permits; and

WHEREAS, these practices and activities include running along streets, highways, and roads, impromptu practices and activities at a park or beach, and running or hiking on a mountain trail; and

WHEREAS, more than a quarter of the State's adolescents are at risk for obesity; and

WHEREAS, high school athletics help to reduce obesity by increasing daily physical activity, which promotes effective weight management and the prevention of obesity-related chronic illnesses; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education's guidelines have negatively impacted all Hawaii public high school athletics, particularly cross country and track teams, where running long distances is the very core of the sport and is extremely crucial for team practice and endurance training; and

WHEREAS, student athletes are less inclined to be motivated to push themselves to run harder when confined to smaller and restricted areas on their respective campuses, thereby taking away their ability to experience the thrill of running to somewhere new that they previously thought was too far away; and

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WHEREAS, the implementation of the Department of Education's guidelines has given a competitive advantage to private school athletes across the State, who are not restricted in their practice areas; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is urged to examine all possibilities to enable student athletic teams to run and train off campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Attorney General, Mayor of Hawaii County, Mayor of Kauai County, Mayor of Maui County, and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

OFFERED BY:

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